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(54) **APPARATUS AND METHODS FOR TISSUE CLOSURE**

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See application file for complete search history.

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

Apparatus and methods are provided for treating a tissue opening, for example a trocar opening used in a minimally invasive surgical procedure. In a tissue closure device, a finger guard or shield can be used, handle or holding area or areas can be used, and positioning indicators can be used. A resiliently flexible target material can also be used for reliably holding a suture the procedure. Introducers can be used having a suture holder, an alignment indicator and insertion limits.

20 Claims, 11 Drawing Sheets

